

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.: EL737871234US
MAILED: 6 March 2001

Attorney Docket No: C70366

IN THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL EXAMINING AUTHORITY

International Application No.: PCT/EP99/06423
International Filing Date: 31 August 1999
Priority Date Claimed: 9 September 1998
Applicant for DO/US: BAKER, Nicole and PARKER, David
Title of Invention: NOVEL COMPOSITION AND USE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box PCT
Att: DO/US
Washington D.C. 20231

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir,

Preliminary to calculating the filing fees and examination of this application, please enter the following remarks and amendments into the record.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 15.

Please amend the following claims:

Claim 1 (amended) [Use of] A method of reducing the tooth erosion potential of an acidic composition for oral use which comprises adding to said composition a viscosity modulating polymer material [as a tooth erosion inhibitor in an acidic composition for oral administration wherein] and controlling the effective pH of the composition [is] to less than or equal to 4.5.

Claim 2 (amended) [Use] The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the viscosity modulating polymer is a complex polysaccharide material.

Claim 3 (amended) [Use] The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the complex polysaccharide material is an alginate, a xanthan or a pectin.